

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 3 VIENNA 1727

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: AD HOC GROUP MEETING OF 25 FEBRUARY 1974

SUMMARY. AHG DISCUSSED AND APPROVED TALKING NOTES TO BE USED IN CONFIRMING THE WESTERN UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROCEDURAL UNDERSTANDING GUIDING THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MULTILATERAL INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS. (TEXT SEPTTEL) GROUP AGREED NOT TO GIVE A COPY OF THE NOTES TO THE EAST AS THAT MIGHT TEND TO OVERLY FORMALIZE THE INFORMAL, ORAG AGREEMENT, AND AGREED THAT PRESENTATION OF A TALKING POINTS TO THE EAST SHOULD BE ON 26 FEBRUARY. IN REPORTS ON BILATERALS, SOVIET DEP REP (SMIRNOVSKY) REPEATED TO US REP HIS INTEREST IN TOKEN WEST EUROPEAN REDUCTIONS AND INDICATED TO CANADIAN

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REP THAT THE INFORMAL MEETINGS COULD HAVE FOUR OR MORE MEMBERS ON EACH SIDE. END SUMMARY.

UK TALKING NOTES

1. THE CHAIRMAN (NETHERLANDS DEPREP) OPENED THE MEETING BY TURNING IMMEDIATELY TO THE UK SPEAKING NOTES ON THE INFORMAL UNDERSTANDING AGREED AD REF IN THE COURSE OF THE INFORMAL EASE/WEST MEETING ON 20 FEBRUARY. (SEE SEPTTEL). THE UK REP SAID THAT THE SPEAKING NOTE WAS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE CLARIFICATION ON THREE POINTS IN THE UNDERSTANDING: 1) IT SPECIFIED THE EXACT TITLES AND WHICH ITEMS WOULD BE INCLUDED UNDER EACH. 2) IT STATED EXPLICITLY THAT UNDER THE TITLE OF "GROUND FORCES OF THE DIRECT PARTICIPANTS," US AND SOVIET GROUND FORCE REDUCTIONS WOULD BE ADDRESSED FIRST, AND THAT UNDER THE SECOND TITLE OF "OTHER TOPICS," ANY TOPIC OF INTEREST TO EITHER SIDE COULD BE RAISED BY THE WEST OR THE EAST. 3) IT ADDRESSED THE QUESTION OF THE TIMETABLE FOR THE MEETINGS, SUCH ITEMS AS HOW MANY MEETINGS THERE WILL BE IN TOTO AND HOW MANY THERE WOULD BE ON EACH PARTICULAR TOPIC. THE UK REP ADDED THAT ANOTHER POINT HAD COME UP IN HIS MEETING WITH THE GDR REP (OESER) AT THE SOVIET ARMED FORCES SERVICES CELEBRATION ON 22 FEBRUARY. THE GDR REP SAID THAT DIFFERENT TOPICS WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT SUCCESSIVE MEETINGS. TE UK REP REPLIED TO THE GDR REP THAT THE FIRST TOPIC TO BE DISCUSSED WOULD BE US/SOVIET GROUND FORCE REDUCTIONS. ONCE A NUMBER OF SESSIONS ON THAT TOPIC HAD TAKEN PLACE, THE DISCUSSIONS WOULD MOVE ON TO OTHER TOPICS AS AGREED. THE GDR REP DISPUTED THIS POINT. THE UK REP STATED THAT THIS FACT INDICATED THAT THIS AREA TOO OF THE INFORMAL EAST/WEST UNDERSTANDING HAD TO BE CLARIFIED.

2. CANADIAN REP (GRANDE) AND BELGIUM REP (ADRIAENSSSEN) BUTH SUGGESTED THAT THE TALKING POINTS BE CHANGED TO STATE THAT THE WEST WOULD AGREE TO SCHEDULE ONLY ONE MEETING AT A TIME, RATHER THAN A SERIES OF MEETINGS. US REP, ALTHOUGH AGREEING WITH THE BASIC IDEA, SUGGESTED THAT FOR SCHEDULING CONVENIENCE FOR ALL CONCERNED, THAT THE MEETINGS BE SCHEDULED A WEEK AT AT TIME WITH NO MORE THAT TWO IN ANY WEEK. THE GROUP AGREED.

3. UK REP, REFERRING TO THE TALKING NOTES, AND SPEAKING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS SAID THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO MAKE IT CLEAR

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THAT THE WEST DID NOT ACCEPT THE SOVIET CONCEPT OF "FOREIGN" AND "NATIONAL" FORCE REDUCTIONS AND THAT THE PHRASE IS NOT UNBIASED FROM THE WESTERN VIEWPOINT. US REP ADDED THAT, SINCE THE OTHER HAD DROPPED THOSE TITLES FROM THE AGREEMENT, THE POINT SEEMED ALREADY TO HAVE BEEN ADEQUATELY MADE.

4. THE CANADIAN REP QUESTIONED THE NEED OF MAKING REFERENCE IN PARA 4 TO THE EAST RAISING AIR AND NUCLEAL ELEMENTS. THE UK REP ANSWERED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO DROP SUCH A REFERENCE BUT HE BELIEVED SUCH A MANEUVER ON THE PART OF THE WEST WOULD

BE UNACCEPTABLE. KHESTOV HAD ONLY BEEN PERSUADED TO DROP HIS INSISTENCE ON A TITLE "AIR AND NUCLEAR ELEMENTS" BECAUSE OF WESTERN AGREEMENT THAT AIR AND NUCLEAR ELEMENTS COULD BE THE FIRST SUBJECT DISCUSSED UNDER "OTHER TOPICS" SHOULD THE SOVIETS CHOOSE TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO RAISE THE SUBJECT.

5. THE GREEK REP (DOUNTAS) SAID HE WISHED TO SUGGEST THAT IF THE WEST WERE TO MAKE AN EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO ASSOCIATED MEASURES OR ANY OTHER ITEM UNDER THE HEADING "OTHER TOPICS", THEN THE WEST SHOULD EXPLICITLY LIST THE SUBJECT OF FLANK SECURITY. HE SAID THE REASON FOR THIS WAS THAT THE WEST HAD RAISED THE QUESTION OF FLANK SECURITY SO OFTEN THAT, IF IT WAS NOT GIVEN EQUAL STATUS WITH OTHER SUBJECTS UNDER THE HEADING "OTHER TOPICS," THEN IT MIGHT SEEM THAT THE WEST HAD FALLEN OFF ITS POSITION ON THIS POINT.

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MBFR NEGOTIATIONS FROM US REP MBFR

THE US REP SAID IT WAS PREFERABLE NOT TO ITEMIZE

SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION UNDER THE HEADING "OTHER TOPICS," LEST THE OTHER SIDE TABLE ITS OWN EXTENSIVE LIST. THE FACT THAT EACH SIDE RECOGNIZED THE OTHER SIDE'S RIGHT TO RAISE ANY ISSUE OF CONCERN IN ACCORD WITH THE 28 JUNE COMMUNIQUE WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO PROTECT WESTERN INTERESTS. ACCORDINGLY, THE GROUP AGREED NOT TO LIST THE SUBJECT OF STABILIZING MEASURES OR OTHER SECURITY ASPECTS.

6. THE ITALIAN REP IN REFERRING TO PARA 5 OF THE PAPER, SUGGESTED THAT EACH SESSION MIGHT COVER A DIFFERENT TOPIC UNDER EACH HEADING. THE US REP STATED THAT THIS WAS NOT A GOOD IDEA SINCE THE WEST PREFERRED TO HOLD THREE MEETINGS ON THE FIRST HEADING BUT IT DID NOT HAVE THREE DIFFERENT TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED UNDER THAT

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HEADING. HE WENT ON TO NOTE THAT PHASING STAGES IN FACT MIGHT ARISE UNDER ANY OF THE TOPICS, THOUGH THE WEST WOULD COVER IT IN DISCUSSION ON US/SOVIET GROUND FORCES. HE ADDED THAT IN DISCUSSION OF US/SOVIET GROUND FORCE REDUCTIONS, THE SOVIETS WOULD LIKELY MAKE MENTION OF EUROPEAN GROUND REDUCTIONS. THE US REP WENT ON TO NOTE THAT IN HIS VIEW THE WEST SHOULD ONLY ADDRESS US/SOVIET GROUND FORCE REDUCTIONS, RESERVING ITS COMMENTS ON EUROPEAN FORCES FOR DISCUSSION OF THE SECOND TOPIC. UK REP ROSE SAID HE COULD ACCEPT THAT PLAN AS LONG AS THE WEST RESTRICTED ITS COMMENTS ON EUROPEAN FORCES TO DISCUSSIONS ON THE SECOND TOPIC.

7. THE FRG REP QUESTIONED WHETHER IT IS NECESSARY IN THE TALKING NOTES TO MENTION AT ALL THAT THE SUBJECT OF EUROPEAN FORCE REDUCTIONS WOULD BE BROUGHT UP. THE UK REP ANSWERED THAT HE WOULD PREFER TO DROP ALL REFERENCES TO THAT TOPIC BUT IF THE WEST DID, IT WOULD APPEAR AS IF THE WEST HAD BACKED OFF FROM THE 20 FEBRUARY AGREEMENT THAT EACH SIDE COULD RAISE TOPICS OF INTEREST TO ITSELF. US REP INTERVENED, AGREEING WITH UK REP. HE FELT THAT TO LEAVE THAT POINT OUT OF THE TALKING NOTES WOULD APPEAR AS IF THE WEST WERE ATTEMPTING TO TRICK THE EAST.

8. HE FELT THE RECORD OF THE MEETING MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT THE WEST HAD ONLY GOTTEN SOVIET AGREEMENT TO ADDRESS THE SUBJECT OF US/SOVIET GROUND FORCE REDUCTIONS FIRST BECAUSE IT WAS AGREED THAT THE EAST COULD LATER RAISE TOPICS OF INTEREST TO THEMSELVES.

9. THE CANADIAN REP SAID THAT IN LOOKING OVER PARA 24 OF THE REPORT ON THE 20 FEBRUARY MEETING (VIENNA 1564) HE NOTED THAT SMIRNOVSKY HAD SAID THAT

PHASING AND STAGES SHOULD BE RELATED NOT ONLY TO GROUND FORCE REDUCTIONS BUT TO AIR AND NUCLEAR FORCE REDUCTIONS ALSO. THE CANADIAN REP QUESTIONED WHETHER THE ALLIED REPS AT THE 20 FEB MEETING HAD ACCEPTED THIS CONCEPT. THE UK REP SAID THAT THE ALLIED REPS DID NOT ACCEPT IT. HE ADDED THAT AT FIRST THE ALLIED REPS HAD SOUGHT A SEPARATE ITEM OF DISCUSSION ON PHASING BUT

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HAD DROPPED THAT APPROACH SPECIFICALLY TO ELIMINATE LINKAGE OF THE SUBJECT WITH ANYTHING OTHER THAN GROUND FORCES. THE UK REP ADDED THAT THE ALLIES SHOULD UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WOULD BE NO WAY OF PREVENTING THE SOVIETS FROM RAISING PHASING/STAGES UNDER THE HEADING OF "OTHER TOPICS" AND LINKING IT WITH AIR AND NUCLEAR ELEMENTS.

10. THE GROUP THEN TURNED TO THE QUESTION OF WHEN TO PRESENT THE TALKING NOTES TO THE EAST AND HOW MUCH FLEXIBILITY THE WESTERN SPOKESMEN SHOULD HAVE. THE GROUP AGREED THAT THE PRESENTATION SHOULD BE MADE BY THE UK REP ON THE MORNING OF 26 FEBRUARY IN THE PRESENCE OF ALL THE REPS WHO HAD BEEN IN ATTENDANCE AT THE 20 FEBRUARY MEETING, AND THAT THE ALLIED REPS WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE ANY SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES TO THE UNDERSTANDING. UPON THE SUGGESTION OF THE BELGIUM REP IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT NO COPY OF THE SPEAKING NOTE WOULD BE GIVEN TO THE EAST SINCE THIS MIGHT TEND TO FORMALIZE WHAT HAD BEEN AGREED AS AN INFORMAL ORAL UNDERSTANDING.

11. IN COMMENTING ON THE SPEAKING NOTE, THE UK REP SAID THAT IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION THAT THE EAST MIGHT PRESSURE THE WEST TO CHANGE ITS POSITION ON TWO POINTS. THESE WER (1) THE EAST MIGHT ATTEMPT TO INSIST THAT SUCCESSIVE SESSIONS SHOULD ALTERNATELY DEAL WITH A DIFFERENT TOPIC, STARTING WITH US GROUND FORCE REDUCTIONS AND MOVING TOPIC BY TOPIC THROUGH THE LIST, AND (2) THE EAST MIGHT CLAIM THAT ONLY IT HAD THE RIGHT TO RAISE TOPICS IT DESIRED UNDER THE HEADING "OTHER TOPICS." THE UK REP SAID THAT THE WESTERN REPS HAD NOT ACHIEVED AT THE 20 FEBRUARY MEETING AN UNEQUIVOCAL UNDERSTANDING ON THE POINT THAT THE WESTERN SIDE HAD AN EQUAL RIGHT TO RAISE SUBJECTS OF INTEREST TO ITSELF UNDER THE HEAD "OTHER TOPICS".

BILATERALS

12. THE US REP REPORTED THAT DURING THE SOVIET ARMED FORCES SERVICES DAY RECEPTION ON 22 FEBRUARY, SOVIET
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DEPREP(SMIRNOVSKY) HAD RAISED WITH HIM THE SAME POINT AS HE HAD PREVIOUSLY RAISED WITH THE BELGIUM AND NORWEGIAN REPS, THE DESIRABILITY OF TOKEN EUROPEAN FORCE REDUCTIONS IN FIRST PHASE REDUCTIONS. THE SOVIET DEP REP SAID SUCH TOKEN REDUCTIONS COULD SERVE AS A SIGN OF GOODFAITH OF INTENTION TO REDUCE AND THEREBY MAKE A TWO-PHASED NEGOTIATION MORE ACCEPTABLE TO THE EAST.

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MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

9. THE US REP SAID HE GAVE SMIRNOVSKY NO ENCOURAGEMENT ON THIS TOPIC BUT HAD ADDED THAT THE EASTERN CONCERN MIGHT BE HANDLED IN OTHER WAYS. SOVIET DEP REP HAD ALSO STATED THAT

HE RAISED THIS SUBJECT ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS. US REP SAID
HE FELT THESE REMARKS WERE AN INDICATION OF SOME SOVIET INTEREST
IN PHASING. BELGIUM REP REPORTED THAT THE SOVIET DEP REP HAD
AGAIN RAISED SAME POINT WITH HIM AT THE SAME OFFICIAL FUNCTION.
THE CANADIAN REP NOTED IN PASSING THAT AT THE VERY SAME FUNCTION
THE SOVIET DEP REP TOLD HIM THAT HE COULD SEE NO REASON WHY
THE MULTILATERAL INFORMAL MEETINGS SHOULD BE LIMITED TO THREE
PARTICIPANTS ON EACH SIDE. THE SOVIET DEP REP SAID THAT HE COULD
SEE NO REASON WHY THERE SHOULD NOT BE FOUR OR MORE PARTICIPANTS
ON EACH SIDE. THE BELGIUM REP SAID THAT THIS SOUNDED TO HIM
LIKE AN INVITATION TO INITIATE A SERIES OF OPEN-ENDED WORKING

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GROUP MEETINGS. CANADIAN REP WENT ON TONOTE THAT POLISH REP
(STRULAK) MENTIONED TO HIM THAT THE PACE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS
PEED XLUPUHAIKUT#HAD AGREED THAT TWO INFORMAL MEETINGS
WEEK#WOULD BE ENOUGH.

OTHER TOPICS

13. THE FRG REP RAISED THE QUESTION OF HOW THE AHG PROPOSED
TO TREAT THE QUESTION OF HUNGARY'S STATUS IN THE COURSE OF
PLENARY STATEMENTS. HE STATED THAT THIS QUESTION HAD BEEN RAISED
DURING THE 21 FEBRUARY AHG MEETING BUT HAD NOT BEEN RESOLVED.
THE UK REP NOTED THAT THE CONSENSUS OF THE AHG HAD BEEN THAT THIS
QUESTION SHOULD BE ADDRESSED IN A GENERAL STATEMENT WHICH SHOULD
BE MADE BY THE WEST TOWARDS THE END OF THE CURRENT SESSION.
HOWEVER, IT HAD NOT BEEN DECIDED EXACTLY WHICH STATEMENT THAT
WOULD BE. GROUP AGREED. HUMES

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